



# ***THE LEMONIER EXPRESS***

## ***October 2003***



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## ***Message From The Commander***

As I look out across the back veranda I am struck by the beautiful contrast of fall colors radiating in the sun. There is a slight cool breeze moving the bright gold and brilliant red leaves across the river that winds its way through the hills. The breeze has a refreshing chill on it this morning making my hot cup of Starbucks taste even better. The sun is warm, but I believe I'll go put my fleece on anyway. Wait a minute, I believe I just saw a trout rise...certainly not the norm this time of year; but then lots of things are different this year.....

OUCH...that hurt. I cracked the back of my head on the cement floor when I fell out of my chair. Guess I dozed off in the blazing heat here in Djibouti. Lets see, how many more shopping days till Christmas? September was a challenging month for us all:

- Hurricane there...Hot and humid here
- Hall of Fame Game there (opening college football game)...Dust bowl here
- Back to school shopping there...Increase of wild dogs and hyena on the running trail here
- New season of Sitcoms there...Project ribbon cutting ceremony at a local village here
- Renew friendships first day of school there...same old face in the chow line here
- Loneliness of missing your spouse and best friend, and family there...DITTO here
- Excitement and anticipation of over the hump day, last month, last week, Homecoming Eve there...DITTO here

Yes, life can be so very different between our worlds. Yours in the wonderful, free, democratic and resource rich United States, surrounded by family and friends, 7-11 down the street. Ours in a tiny, but proud Third World Nation that just expelled 38,000 refugees; most of which packed onto a dirty train or walked across the desert to the Ethiopian border. Deployment and family separation is tough, but as it has been said – "Freedom has a special flavor the protected never know". The dust in my mouth and the sweat pouring down my back is not the taste of freedom, but the smiles at the local village when we cut the ribbon on a cement water cistern (6' X 6' water tank) is priceless. Yes, life is different between our worlds, but the bond of the heart is never stronger than when loved ones are separated by 8000 miles and centuries of cultural development. We appreciate you, family, home, and the good old USA more than ever. As different as the environments are, the shared sacrifice and hope for a better tomorrow is the common bond that ties us together. Thank you for partnering with us, for faithfully waiting for us, for being as committed to this Global War on Terrorism as we are...and we appreciate and miss you all the more because of it. Keep the home fires burning and God bless.

*Sincerely,*



***Mastin M. Robeson***  
***Brigadier General, USMC***



### **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

#### **CJTF-HOA Info**

- 1(866)360-3775
- 1(910)451-2222

#### **American Red Cross**

- 1(877)272-7337

#### **TriCare Appointment/Advice**

- 1(800)931-9501

#### **CJTF-HOA Family Readiness Officer, Djibouti, Africa**

##### **- LT R. C. Francis**

- 24 hrs Tel: 011-973-82-9257
- e-mail: [froafrica@hoa.centcom.mil](mailto:froafrica@hoa.centcom.mil)

#### **Family Readiness Officer, Camp Lejeune, NC**

##### **- LT J. A. Polson**

- Tel: (910) 451-8735
- e-mail: [frousal@hoa.centcom.mil](mailto:frousal@hoa.centcom.mil)

#### **Family Readiness Staff Non-Commissioned Officer, Camp Lejeune, NC**

##### **-GySgt F. V. Munoz**

- Tel: (910) 451-8719
- e-mail: [frousa2@hoa.centcom.mil](mailto:frousa2@hoa.centcom.mil)



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### *From the Enduring Freedom Chapel*

The Chaplain Department has been busy this past month, visiting our personnel in remote locations, conducting worship services, and handing out 137 boxes of clothes and other supplies to Non-Governmental

Organizations in Djibouti, and arranging a September 11 Remembrance Service for those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom. We also proudly remembered our families back home who continue to give us great support. We have had some additions to our Chaplain family here in the past month.

RP1 John Caudle and his wife, Lori, proudly announce the recent adoption of their child, Jacob Zane Caudle. Jacob was born July 13, 2003 in Djibouti City, Djibouti, Africa. The proud parents were granted custody of him September 16, 2003.

We would also like to welcome aboard RP2 Spencer Fry, a native



of Odessa, Texas. After his basic training and Seamen Apprenticeship School, he joined the crew of the USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) based out of San Diego, CA. After completing his five-year sea tour, RP2 Fry started working in the chaplain's office at Naval Medical Center, San Diego. When the opportunity for RP2 Fry to go to Djibouti Africa in support of Operation Enduring Freedom came about, he volunteered for the opportunity. RP2 Fry is now the Chaplain Department Community Relations Coordinator for CJTF-HOA in Djibouti. RP2 Fry is excited about meeting the local chiefs and has already amassed various handcrafted items from the locals, which he

promises to give his mother upon his return.

You would be proud of all of your service member's continued involvement with the three orphanages in which we partner--the baby orphanage, the boys' and the girls.' English, art, and wrestling classes

as well as soccer games are a few of the activities that are making the difference in the lives of many children. Many organizations are sending new and used clothing items and sports equipment to improve the quality of life for the children. If you are interested in helping out back home, you may send appropriate items through your service member, who in return can take the goods to one of the chaplain offices. If you have a concern you would like to address with a chaplain here in the theater, you may reach you CJTF-HOA Chaplain, Chaplain Scott, at [scottrh@hoa.centcom.mil](mailto:scottrh@hoa.centcom.mil).

We also handle prayer requests. God Bless you as we are all involved in this war against transnational terrorism.



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### **CJTF-HOA Family Day resounding success**

Staff Report

**CAMP LEJEUNE, NC** – The first CJTF-HOA Family Day Backyard Picnic and Hoedown held, Saturday, 27 September at Hospital Point Picnic Area, Camp Lejeune, NC, was deemed a resounding success by all. Over 30 family members and friends of service members deployed to the Horn of Africa were in attendance. Although some family members were unable to attend, family members from as far away as

Alexandria, Virginia made the long drive to share in the festivities.

In addition to the copious supply of free food and music, a clown, pony rides, face painting and line dancing were just some of the fun that entertained guests. The young children and teens wrote and drew pictures on a large banner that will be mailed to the service members at Camp Lemonier, Djibouti along with pictures and videos of the

event.

Thanks to CJTF-HOA Key Volunteers, Mrs. Nancy Robeson and Mrs. Deborah Callahan and CJTF-HOA (Rear) Family Readiness Staff, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Jeffery Polson and GySgt. Francis Munoz, organizing of the Family day and the large showing of support from family members and friends, the service members at Camp Lemonier are to keep charging forward.

### **United Through Reading comes to Djibouti**

Staff Report

**CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti** – A New quality-of-life program is starting here this month to help deployed parents communicate with their children. The United Through Reading Program is designed to boost family morale and ease children's fears about a parent's absence during deployment. Service Members will be privately video taped reading aloud to their young children at home. The tape, along with the book if provided by the service member) is then mailed back home.

The parent or caregiver at home shows the video tape to the child who can follow along with the book sent by the deployed service member. While the child is watching and listening, the parent or caregiver at home can use a camcorder or camera to record the child's interaction with deployed service member who is reading. The video tape or

picture of the child's reaction is then sent back to the deployed service member along with a new book, to complete the full circle and encourage continued participation.

All deployed personnel can utilize this service to read aloud to their children, younger brothers or sisters, grandchildren, or even a child they are mentoring.

We encourage everyone to send their child's favorite books to your loved ones at Camp Lemonier and strengthen the lines of communication between parent and child.

More information about the program can be found at the following links:

[Uniting Through Reading Program](#) and [Recommended books](#).

## ***Camp Lemonier Happenings***

**October 2-** Collective Soul performed a concert at Camp Lemonier.

**September 18-** Service Members aboard Camp Lemonier celebrated the Air Force's 56<sup>th</sup> Birthday with a cake cutting ceremony.

**September 11-** Camp Lemonier remembered those who died September 11 and who have given their lives in the War on Terror since in an evening ceremony.

**September 1-** The new dining facility aboard Camp Lemonier was officially opened. It was named after the late Bob Hope.

**September 1-** Camp Lemonier celebrated Labor Day with a bazaar, sports, a talent show and bingo.



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### ***Unit Updates***

#### ***10<sup>th</sup> MOUNTAIN DIVISION***

C Company, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division conducted the following training during the month of July:

- Numerous ranges in Djibouti / Ethiopia to include:
  - a. Shoot House.
  - b. Marksmanship ranges.
  - c. Squad Live Fire Lanes.
- Army Directed Training to include:
  - a. Consideration of Others.
  - b. Suicide prevention.

Their also conducting Mil-to-Mil training in Hurso, Ethiopia.

#### ***Expeditionary Medical Unit***

The EMU recently arrived at Camp Lemonier. Since their arrival September 14 they have completed the following training:

- a. Orientation to German Navy Rescue Center, EGH Frankfurt.
- b. AEROVAC Air Force Training (Mass Casualty Patient Evacuation).
- c. Medical Facility Training (new equipment and skills stations).

The EMU also provided Medical Support for the Following Missions:

- a. Joint Ops training of US Army, Marines, French and Djiboutian Military Personnel.
- b. Rugby Club Matches.
- c. Hurso, Ethiopia Dignitary Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.
- d. MedCAP Djibouti City

#### ***478<sup>th</sup> CIVIL AFFAIRS BATTALION***

C Company, 478<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion (SO) conducted the following missions:

- MEDCAP Sept. 3-4 at Wajir, Kenya. The C Co., 478<sup>th</sup> CA Bn.'s Civic Action Team along with US Navy medical personnel were able to treat 1040 medical patients and performed 3 surgeries during this two day event.
- VETCAP Sept. 2-4 at Wajir, Kenya. The C Co., 478<sup>th</sup> CA Bn.'s Civic Action Team treated/vaccinated over 6,000 animals during the mobile VetCap.
- Ribbon Cutting Sept 24 at Dikhil Hospital, Djibouti. The C Co., 478<sup>th</sup> CA Bn.'s Civic Action Team celebrated the grand opening of the Dikhil Hospital.
- MEDCAP Sept. 27-28 at Djibouti City, Djibouti. The C Co., 478<sup>th</sup> CA Bn.'s Civic Action Team along with US Navy medical personnel were able to treat 563 medical patients during this two day event at Dar El Hanan Hospital.
- Ribbon Cutting Sept. 29 at Hurso School and Clinic, Ethiopia. The C Co., 478<sup>th</sup> Bn.'s Civic Action Team-A2 celebrated the grand opening of the school and clinic with the 463<sup>rd</sup> Engineers.
- A Civil Affairs team from the 478<sup>th</sup> CA BN has been deployed to Hurso, Ethiopia and is conducting Civil Military Operations in the eastern portion of Ethiopia. The team has completed numerous assessments including a water distribution facility, civilian supply sources, schools and clinics in the Dire Dawa and Hurso area.



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### ***916<sup>th</sup> WELL DRILLING DETACHMENT***

The 916<sup>th</sup> Well Drilling Detachment attended the ribbon cutting ceremony on the well they recently completed in Dikhil, bringing a needed water source to the community. They continue drilling on a well in Ali-Sabieh.

### ***CJTF-HOA ENGINEERS***

The Engineer's of CJTF-HOA has continued to conduct Civil-Military Operation within Djibouti. These operations include:

- Finished repairs to Dikhil Hospital and Well Cistern/Pump House projects.
- Continues work on the Deudah Incenerator project.

### ***463<sup>rd</sup> ENGINEERS***

Soldiers of the 463<sup>rd</sup> have conducted the following training:

- Continues training with the Djiboutian Army on Hol-Hol road.
- Continues training with Djiboutian civilians; teaching carpentry skills, masonry skills and operation of heavy equipment.
- Completed training on the operation of the AN/PSC 5 Radio.

Soldiers of the 463<sup>rd</sup> have conducted the following missions:

- Constructed concrete sidewalks aboard Camp Lemonier.
- Construction of road between Djibouti City and Hol Hol, Djibouti.
- Provided the security force for the well site near Ali Sabieh, Djibouti in support of the 916<sup>th</sup> Engineer Detachment.
- Completed construction of the well house at Dikhil, Djibouti.
- Repaired roadways surrounding Gullah Batal School, Djibouti.
- Rerouted drainage at Ammunition Supply Area.

### ***COMMAND LOGISTICS ELEMENT***

The Command Logistics Element conducted the following training:

- Live fire 9mm familiarization range with J3.

The Command Logistics Element completed the following mission:

- CLE Rugby Team played a match against the local French team, winning 1-0

### ***HMH - 461***

HMH-461 conducted the following training:

- Numerous live fire ranges with the Rear Mounted Weapon System.

HMH completed the following missions:

- Numerous support missions to Hurso Ethiopia.
- Numerous support missions for Civil Affairs.

### ***Task Force Rawhide***

Task Force Rawhide has accomplished the following training for the month:

- Conducted Bilateral training with local French Commandos.
- Conducted a 9mm Service Pistol Range.
- Conducted two Machine Gun Ranges.





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### ***Promotions***

#### **CJTF-HOA**

From Staff Sergeant to Sergeant First Class:

-SFC. Terrence Carroll

From Sergeant to Staff Sergeant:

-SSgt. Rudy Desten

-SSgt. Manuel Machado

From First Lieutenant to Captain:

-Capt. David F. Tolar

#### **916<sup>th</sup> Well Drilling Detach**

From Sergeant to Staff Sergeant:

-SSgt. Craig Holland

-SSgt. William Gedrose

#### **478<sup>th</sup> CA Bn.**

From Staff Sergeant to Sergeant First Class:

-SFC Celestino T. Jimenez

#### **10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division**

From Private 2 to Private First Class:

-Pfc. Jonathan Dale

-Pfc. Geoffrey Hise

-Pfc. Paul Kendel

-Pfc. Scott Magnanti

-Pfc. Andrew Nichols

-Pfc. J.J. Vegavega

-Pfc. Ivan Watt

From Private First Class to Specialist:

-SPC Jamie Lynn

-SPC Joshua Edwards

-SPC James Moss

-SPC Juan Montoya

-SPC Robert Kennedy

-SPC Brent Selders

From Sergeant to Staff Sergeant:

-SSgt. Kaseem Haslam

#### **Task Force Rawhide**

From Private First Class to Lance Corporal:

-LCpl. Lee M. Poziviak

From Lance Corporal to Corporal:

-Cpl. Ryan S. Flitcroft

-Cpl. Derrick F. Griswold

-Cpl. Christopher F. Hulmes

-Cpl. Robert E. Thompson

From Corporal to Sergeant:

-Sgt. Joshua G. Lambert

#### **Task Force Rawhide**

From Lance Corporal to Corporal:

-Cpl. Christopher A. Lord

From Corporal to Sergeant:

-Sgt. Joon S. Kum

### ***Awards and Recognition***

#### **CJTF-HOA**

CJTF-HOA had a number of note worthy awards.

- CJ-6 Communicator of the Month and Non-Commissioned Officer of the Month was SSgt. Carey Dvorak.
- Camp Lemonier Service Members of the Month LCpl. Richard Cates
- SSgt. Carey Dvorak reenlisted this month.
- Congratulations to Maj. Chuck Greenwald on his selection to Lt. Col.

#### **478<sup>th</sup> CA Bn.**

478<sup>th</sup> CA Bn. had two awards of note.

- MSgt. Yolanda Alvarez and SSgt. Labonte Sprowl both received the Joint Service Achievement Medal for their contributions to the Mission.

#### **10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division**

C Co. 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division had two note worthy accomplishments.

- SPC Johnson was the NCO of the Month (Army).
- PV2 Dale was the Service Member of the Month (Army).

### ***Wedding Anniversaries***

#### **CJTF-HOA**

Congratulations to the following Service Members on their wedding anniversaries:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Erick & Patricia Saks – September 30th.

### ***New Arrivals***

#### **463<sup>rd</sup> Engineer Detachment**

Congratulations to Capt. Shawn and Lori McNabb on the birth of their daughter, Amanda Jean, September 24<sup>th</sup>.

#### **C Company, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division**

Congratulations to Pfc. Linh and Tanya Tran on the birth of their son, September 16<sup>th</sup>.



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### ***Welcome Aboard Camp Lemonier!***

#### **CJTFF-HOA**

Senior Airman Joshua F. Vandergriff – USA

SSgt. Chris A Peyton – USAF

Tech Sgt. Douglas M. Miles – USAF      Tech Sgt. Michael R. Russ – USAF  
SSgt. John K. Joye – USMC

CPO Paul J. Palacios – USN      GySgt. Ronald E. Baum-USMC

MSgt. Robert T. Rose – USMC

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Erick Saks – USAF

Lt. David Blenco - USN      Lt. Richard D. Heridia – USN  
Capt. Charles P. Winchester – USMC

Col. Joseph J. Vaccaro - USMC

#### **Coalition:**

Capt. Mohammed A. Farah

#### **Civilian Personnel:**

Mrs. Janice L. Boller

#### **EMU**

HA Brandon S. Crocker

HN Chris S. Barnes – USN  
HN Vincent L. Boston – USN  
HN Christopher A. Shields – USN

HM3 Janet R. Burkholder – USN  
HM3 Donna M. Goodwin – USN

HM2 Teresa L. Bailey – USN  
HM2 Gabriel A. Leyva – USN  
HM2 Carl C. Moore – USN  
HM2 Elmott Vance – USN

HM1 Dennis Barrett – USN  
HM1 Michael J. Johnson – USN

HMC Vernon W. Stiles – USN

Lt.j.g. David A. Davis – USN

Lt. William L. Jones – USN  
Lt. Richard W. Schultz – USN  
Lt Cedric L. West – USN

Lt. Cmdr. Jeffery S. Johnson – USN

Cmdr. Nancy L. Curll – USN  
Cmdr. William M. Hall – USN  
Cmdr. Melanie W. Mitchell – USN

Capt. Bill C. Kinney – USN

HN George W. Barr – USN  
HN Alexis A. Galloway – USN  
HN Ana R. Venegas – USN

HM3 Robert B Crampton – USN

HM2 Christina M. Jacks – USN  
HM2 Tamara L. Marks – USN  
HM2 Darnell D. Vinson – USN  
SK2 Calvin O. Wright – USN

IT1 Ron Hawkins – USN  
HM1 Byron L. Thompson – USN

HMC Nicholas C Sebring – USN

Lt. j.g. Lesa A Roth – USN

Lt Mark D. Roman – USN  
Lt. Stanley Styk – USN

Lt. Cmdr. Terry M. Lane – USN

Cmdr. Richard D. Curtis – USN  
Cmdr. Sharon M. Miller – USN

Capt. David Leivers – USN

#### **10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division**

Capt. Christopher T. Fahrenbach – USA      Capt. Brian Garner – USA

### ***Fare Thee Well!***

#### **CJTFF-HOA**

Cpl. Gordon A. Rouse – USMC  
Cpl. Benjamin N. Askin – USMC  
Cpl. Jason L. Albritton – USMC  
PO2 Isam S. Almoubrouk – USN  
SSgt Robert E Barrowman – USAF  
Sgt. Matthew D. Rackley – USMC  
Sgt. Kelvin D. Morgan – USMC  
Sgt. James W. Southern – USMC  
Sgt. Jeremiah R. Kuepper – USMC  
SSgt Christopher G Abela – USMC  
SSgt. Scott E. Crossen – USMC  
PO1 Timothy J. Owens – USN  
PO1 Juan A. Lopez – USN  
CPO Kenneth W. Kosman – USN  
GySgt Christopher J Blackler – USMC  
GySgt. Jerry A. Austin – USMC  
GySgt. Mark E. Detrich – USMC  
GySgt. Michael T Raybon – USMC  
MSgt. David E. Helms – USMC  
MSgt. Vincent L. Tygart – USMC  
Lt. j.g. Tara L. Baker – USN  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Christopher T. Pate – USMC  
Capt. Travis L. Homiak – USMC  
Capt. Amador R. Estrada – USMC  
Maj. Roy Gentry – USMC  
Maj. Vicken A. Benjian – USAF  
Maj. Gary J. Golembiski – USMC  
Cmdr. Theodore R. Spicer – USN  
LtCol. Gary Cook – USA  
LtCol. Phillip Adams – USA  
LtCol. Ralph Sigler – USMC  
LtCol Gregory M Woodward – USMC  
Col. Paul Melshen – USMC

#### **Coalition:**

Byounghyen An  
Catlin S. Fleseriu

#### **Civilian:**

Mr. Alan B. Weeke

#### **10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division**

Spc. Houchell – USA  
Spc. Peterson – USA  
Spc. Worman – USA  
Sgt. Ramsey – USA  
Sgt. Roscoe – USA  
Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Sommerhauser – USA  
Capt. Scott F. Austin – USA

#### **87<sup>th</sup> ESFS**

The 87<sup>th</sup> ESFS has departed Djibouti Africa. Great working with you and good luck in all your future endeavors.